

Curriculum Vitae
Dr. Calum Lister Matheson
1 September 2022
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Employment History

- Chair of the Department of Communication, University of Pittsburgh, 2022-present
- Associate Professor of Public Deliberation and Civic Life, University of Pittsburgh, 2021-present
- Assistant Professor of Public Deliberation and Civic Life and Director of Debate, University of Pittsburgh, 2015-2021
- Founding Principal and Director of Research, Vocable Communications, 2017-2019
- Debate Coach, Harvard University, 2008-2015
- Graduate Teaching Assistant, University of North Carolina, 2011-2015
- Debate Coach/Program Coordinator, University of North Texas, 2004-2008

Education

- PhD, Communication Studies, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Spring 2015.
- Graduate, Pittsburgh Psychoanalytic Center, 2022.
- MA, History, University of North Texas, 2011
- BA, History, University of North Texas, Spring 2009

Scholarly Publications

Book

Matheson, Calum. *Desiring the Bomb: Communication, Psychoanalysis, and the Atomic Age*. University of Alabama Press, 2019.

Journal Articles

Matheson, Calum. "Liberal Tears and the Rogue's Yarn of Sadistic Conservatism." Forthcoming in *Rhetoric Society Quarterly* 52:4.

Matheson, Calum. "Stasis in the Net of Affect." *Philosophy & Rhetoric* 52:1 (2019): 71-77.

Matheson, Calum. "Filthy Lucre: Gold, Language, and Exchange Anxiety." *Review of Communication* 18:4 (2018): 249-264 (lead article).

Matheson, Calum. "Psychotic Discourse: The Rhetoric of the Sovereign Citizen Movement." *Rhetoric Society Quarterly* 48:2 (2018): 187-206.

Matheson, Calum. "The Sublime Rhetoric of Pascal's Wager." *Argumentation and Advocacy* 53 no. 4, (2017): 271-286.

Matheson, Calum. "What Does Obama Want of Me?" *Anxiety and Jade Helm* 15." *Quarterly Journal of Speech* 102:2 (2015): 133-149.

Matheson, Calum. "Procedural Rhetoric Beyond Persuasion: *First Strike* and the Compulsion to Repeat." *Games and Culture* 10, no. 5. (2015): 463-480.

Zemlicka, Kurt and Matheson, Calum. "To Make a Desert and Call it Peace: *Stasis* and Judgment in the MX Missile Debate." *Argumentation and Advocacy* 51, no. 1. (2014): 30-41.

Book Chapters

Matheson, Calum. "Mogged by the Market: Science, Subjectivity, and the Rationalization of Sex," in *From Cogito to Covid: Rethinking Lacan's "Science and Truth"*, ed. Concetta Principe and Molly Wallace, 2022.

Matheson, Calum. "Enjoying the Heat: Anxiety, Fantasy, and Doomsday Prepping," forthcoming in *Lacan and the Environment*, ed. Clint Burnham and Paul Kingsbury, Palgrave MacMillan, 2021.

Matheson, Calum. "The Instance of the Letter in the Unconscious, or Reason Since Freud." In *Reading Lacan's Écrits: From 'On a Purpose' to 'Comments on Daniel Lagache'*, ed. Derek Hook, Calum Neill, and Stijn Vanheule, London: Routledge, 2019.

Online Publications

Matheson, Calum. "Outside Agitators." *Listening to Covid-19*. Lacan Salon, June 6, 2020. <http://www.lacansalon.com/listening-to-covid-19/outside-agitators> (solicited and reviewed by committee of the Vancouver Lacan Salon)

Research-Related Publications

Matheson, Calum. "Electoral Reform." Topic proposal paper for the national 2017-2018 college debate topic.

<http://www.cedadebate.org/forum/index.php/topic,7091.0.html>

Matheson, Calum. "Senate Matters: Debate in the Classroom." *University Times* faculty and staff newspaper, Feb. 16, 2017.

Matheson, Calum. "We no longer know the difference between debating and arguing - and that's hurting democracy: Calum Matheson." Op Ed. *Penn Live*, January 17, 2017.

http://www.pennlive.com/opinion/2017/01/we_no_longer_know_the_differen.html

Courses Taught

- Rhetoric Beyond Persuasion (Graduate) Spring 2018
- Readings in Critical Theory: Lacan (Graduate) Spring 2017, Spring 2020
- Twenty-First Century Public Argument (Spring 2021)
- Media Studies and Criticism, Spring 2014 (UNC), 2016, Fall 2017
- Argument, Fall 2013, 2014 (UNC), 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2020 Spring 2013, 2014, 2015, (UNC), 2016, 2017, 2018
- Power, Knowledge, Desire, Fall 2016
- Rhetoric and Public Issues (UNC, Fall 2012)

Other Teaching Activities

- Director of the William Pitt Debating Union, 2015-2022
- Professional Development supervision of Aaron Swanlek (designing an argument course, teaching observation, etc) Spring 2016
- Professional Development supervision of Nick Stefanski (article editing and workshopping) Spring 2016
- Directed Study with Andréa Hanna, (Rhetoric and Religion) Fall 2017

- Directed Study with Alvin Primack (Psychoanalysis and Sexuality) Spring 2018
- Directed Study with Rishi Chebrolu (Psychoanalysis and Race), Spring 2019
- Directed Study with Corinne Sugino (Religious Theory) Spring 2019
- Directed Study with Reed van Schenck (Psychoanalysis and Marxism), Fall 2020
- Directed Study with Max Dosser (Reactionary Fandoms), Spring 2021.

Teaching Distinctions

- Invited NCA presentation on teaching conspiracy theories, November 2021
- Argument class featured in a Pittsburgh Post-Gazette article, “Learning the art of civil argument in an uncivil time” <http://www.post-gazette.com/news/education/2016/12/04/Learning-the-art-of-civil-argument-in-an-uncivil-time/stories/201612040113>
- Class selected as one of “The top 10 classes all Pitt students should take before graduating” The Tab, December 16, 2016 <http://thetab.com/us/pitt/2016/12/12/top-10-classes-pitt-students-take-graduate-5019>

Fellowships, Grants, and Fundraising

- Humanities Center fellowship, University of Pittsburgh, 2021-2022
- Initiated and managed Engage Pitt fundraising plan, 2016-2017 (\$15,725, or 157% of fundraising goal)

Graduate Students Advised

- Andrew Allsup (PhD major advisor; currently ABD)
- Rishi Chebrolu (MA and PhD major advisor; currently ABD)
- Rachel Clancy (PhD major advisor; currently ABD)
- Max Dosser (PhD major advisor; currently ABD)
- Ryan Blank (PhD committee, ABD)
- Kamiran Dadah (PhD committee)
- Alex Holguin (PhD committee)
- Alvin Primack (PhD committee, completed 2022)
- Kory Riemensperger (PhD committee)
- Reed Van Schenck (MA and PhD committees)
- Andréa Hanna (MA committee; degree completed 2019)
- Nick Stefanski (PhD committee, degree completed 2020)
- Dan Beresheim (PhD committee, completed 2022)
- Nathan Bedsole (PhD committee outside member, University of Colorado, degree completed 2020)

Invited Research Presentations

- “The Truth Will Set You Free: Christian Discernment in an Age of Political Extremism and Conspiracy Thinking.” Public presentation at First Trinity Lutheran Church sponsored by the Beatrice Institute, March 27, 2022.
- “The Rhetoric of Literalism in Scriptural Theory and Beyond.” Graduate student symposium sponsored by the Beatrice Institute, Feb. 20, 2022.
- Two research presentations for Pittsburgh Collaboratory Against Hate, 2021.

- Featured on *Rendering Unconscious* podcast hosted by Dr. Vanessa Sinclair discussing book chapter in *Lacan and the Environment*, recorded with expected broadcast December 2021.
- Presenter of a five-part seminar *Navigating Information Fatigue* in partnership with Carnegie Libraries of Pittsburgh (Making Good Arguments, Conspiracies, and Scams and Hoaxes) August 17, 24, 31, 2020; two additional May 2021 presentations on social media.
- Guest speaker at “Talk Civil to Me,” community discussion on civic discourse sponsored by PublicSource, Feb. 27, 2020.
- Faculty Book Talk series, University of Pittsburgh Library, September 25, 2019.
- *Agora* speaker series, University of Pittsburgh, “Desiring the Bomb: Communication, Psychoanalysis, and the Atomic Age,” book talk and book reading, January 25, 2019.
- “Desiring the Bomb,” lecture on my book, College of Charleston, 2019.
- Affective Archives Research Group, “Mania, Depression, and Rhetoric: On Modes of Engaging the Archive,” Sep 6, 2018.
- Distinguished Speaker, Panther Leadership Summit, Feb. 4, 2017, topic: Argument and Diversity (University of Pittsburgh event including a speech to 1,000+ students followed by small-group workshop)
- Guest lecture, “Information Processing and Fake News,” graduate policy analysis class, Dr. Ralph Bangs, June 2016.
- Guest lecture, “Anxiety, Apocalypse, and Decline,” Global Approaches to the Concept of Modernity (graduate class in History, Dr. Raja Adal), Feb. 2017
- *Agora* speaker series, University of Pittsburgh, “Psychosis and Rhetoric: What Does the Sovereign Citizen Mean?” September 2016.
- *Agora* speaker series, University of Pittsburgh, “Practicing the Apocalypse: Nuclear Simulations and the Limits of Mediation,” January 13, 2015
- Invited colloquium presentation for UNC Comm Studies Welcome Week, “The Revolution Will Not Be Simulated,” March 2014
- Colloquium presentation, UNC, Fall 2012. “Imported from Detroit: Chrysler's Myth of Redemption”

Conferences

International Conferences

- Lacan: Clinic and Culture Conference, Duquesne University, Oct. 2022—organizer, speaker, and panel chair.
- Duquesne University *Écrits* conference “Instance of the Letter,” Oct. 2019.
- LACK III Conference (Worcester, MA) “Loving the Rocket Man: Toward an Erotology of Donald Trump,” May 2019.
- Petrocultures 2018 (Glasgow, Scotland), “Oil Psychosis: Metonymy and Delusion of the Oil Economy,” Sep. 2018.
- Laconference (Vancouver, Canada), “Desiring the End: Environmental Apocalypse and a Sense of the Real,” April, 2018.
- LACK II Conference (Colorado Springs, CO), “*Limos* as a Metaphor for the Drive.” October 2017.

National Conferences

- Rhetoric Society of America, “On two modes of literalism as figurative discourse,” April 2022.
- Rhetoric Society of America, “Sadistic conservatism and the figure of ‘liberal tears,’” April 2022.
- National Communication Association Vice President’s Spotlight Renewal and Transformation Series: Democracy. Nov. 18, 2021.
- National Communication Association panel on pedagogy and conspiracy theories, Nov. 19, 2021.
- Institute for Research on Male Supremacism, panel on incels and misogyny, scheduled for 2020 but delayed due to pandemic
- National Communication Association panel on conspiracy theories, Nov. 2020
- Rhetoric Society of America panel on conspiracy theories, 2020, canceled due to pandemic.
- National Communication Association, panel on apocalypticism, Nov. 2019.
- National Communication Association, panel on Jacques Lacan’s Baltimore Address, Nov. 2019.
- University of South Carolina Rhetorical Theory Conference, “Punctuating Rhetoric” (invited), Oct. 2019
- National Communication Association, panel on *Packingham v. North Carolina*, 2018
- Rhetoric Society of America, “Horror, Pessimism, and Rhetoric Against Persuasion: On the Intersections of Carlo Michelstaedter and Jacques Lacan.” May 2018.
- Cultural Studies Association, “Trumpeting Doomsday: Knowledge, Media, and the Nuclear Imaginary.” May 2018.
- National Communication Association, “Uniting the Sacred and Profane: Theoretical and Social Productivity of Merging Rhetoric and Religion” (panel respondent), Nov 2017.
- National Communication Association, “Naming the Arcane: Rhetoric as Magic,” November 2016.
- National Communication Association, panel chair, “Critical Cultural Work on Diplomacy, the Cold War, and International Affairs,” November 2016
- Rhetoric Society of America, “What Does Obama Want of Me? Anxiety and Jade Helm 15,” May 2016.
- Rhetoric Society of America, “Reevaluating the Sublime: On Contingency and Order in Political Rhetoric,” May 2016.
- National Communication Association, “Desired Ground Zeroes: Race, Space, and the Imagination of Nuclear Attack.” November 2015.
- National Communication Association. “Procedural Rhetoric Beyond Persuasion: First Strike and the Compulsion to Repeat.” November 2014
- National Communication Association. “This is Not a Subject: (Mis)Identifications of Rhetorical Culture.” Panel Chair
- Rhetoric Society of America. “Atomic Revelations: The Rhetorical Sublime and Nuclear Weapons.” May 2014

- National Communication Association. “In Bomb We Trust: The Ideology of Exceptionalism in John F. Kennedy’s American University Commencement Speech.” November 2013
- National Communication Association. “Ob-literation: Project Plowshare, Eroticism, and the Death Drive.” November 2013

Professional Organizations and Affiliations

- Research Fellow, Department of English, University of the Free State, Bloemfontein, South Africa (2018-2021)
- Affective Archives research group, 2018-present
- American Psychoanalytic Association, (academic non-clinical member) 2018-present
- Affiliate, Cultural Studies Program, University of Pittsburgh, 2015-present
- Affiliate, Gender, Sexuality, and Women’s Studies, University of Pittsburgh, 2017-present
- Cultural Studies Association, 2017-present
- National Communication Association, 2011-present
- Rhetoric Society of America, 2013-present (lifetime member)
- National Debate Coaches Association, 2005-2014
- Phi Alpha Theta History Society, 2009-2011

Selected University and Departmental Service

- Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences Faculty Diversity Committee, Fall 2019-present
- Belonging, Inclusivity, Diversity, Equity Committee, Fall 2020-2022.
- Search Committee Chair, Associate Director of Debate (2018-2019).
- Director of the William Pitt Debating Union, University of Pittsburgh, 2015-2022
- Graduate Curriculum Committee, 2019-2022.
- Topic introduction, debate consulting, and committee moderation for Pitt “College in Highschool” argument and debate program, Spring 2016.
- Departmental Admissions and Financial Aid Committee, 2017-2022
- Tournament Director, Marie Hochmuth Round Robin (debate tournament), 2017, 2018, 2020.
- Search Committee: Associate Director of Debate, University of Pittsburgh, Fall 2015.
- Ad hoc committee on Civic Life and Public Deliberation, University of Pittsburgh, 2015-16.
- Agora Committee, University of Pittsburgh, 2015-2016, 2020-2022.

Disciplinary and Professional Service

- Peer Reviewer, *Rhetoric Society Quarterly* (multiple reviews)
- Peer Reviewer, *Argumentation & Advocacy* (multiple reviews)
- Peer Reviewer, *Critical Studies in Media Communication* (multiple reviews)
- Peer Reviewer, *Res Rhetorica*
- Peer Reviewer, Collaboratory Against Hate poster presentations, 2022
- Peer Reviewer, National Communication Conference (multiple years)
- Peer Reviewer (book), SUNY Press
- Peer Reviewer (book), Routledge

Inclusivity and Diversity

- Proposed and submitted bylaw changes to establish a Belonging, Inclusivity, Diversity, and Equity Committee for the Department of Communication, 2020
- ADL Campus of Difference diversity workshop (12-hour intensive workshop), March 9-12, 2020 and follow-up meetings.
- Member of the Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences Faculty Diversity Committee, Fall 2019-present (subcommittees on hiring and AS mentoring)
- Teaching Inclusively Seminar, University of Pittsburgh 2018
- Title IX Training, University of North Carolina/University of Pittsburgh
- Meeting with Office of Diversity and Inclusion for personal training in inclusive recruiting practices, University of Pittsburgh 2018
- Disability policy seminar, University of Pittsburgh 2018
- Wrote and developed a strategic plan for inclusivity for the William Pitt Debating Union (2018) and revised the Code of Conduct towards this end, 2015, 2017, 2018.
- Organized annual inclusivity discussions with Office of Diversity and Inclusion for the WPDU (2018, 2019)
- Full-day intergroup dialogue seminar on departmental culture, October 2018
- Departmental reading group on diversity, inclusion, and climate, University of Pittsburgh
- Debate coach and campaign advisor for Emilio Vicente, first undocumented person to run for president of the University of North Carolina student body, 2014.
<https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/post-nation/wp/2014/02/18/meet-the-undocumented-immigrant-who-hopes-to-be-uncs-next-student-body-president/>

International Outreach

- Seminars on Means of Persuasion and Community Issues for the Institute of War and Peace Reporting Iran project, 2018.
- Guest presenter and discussion leader on “Fake News and Propaganda,” GlobalPittsburgh, June 2016 (conference with German journalism professionals)
- iDebate Rwanda debates, 2015 and 2016, University of Pittsburgh
- Seminar series on persuasion for Non-Governmental Organizations (three Internet seminars) for Yarikadeh, an organization training NGOs and activists in Iran.
<http://yarikadeh.com/en/about-us> (2014).
- “ALS Ice Bucket Challenge—Lessons for NGO Fundraising,” article for Yarikadeh (September 2014).

Media Outreach

- Interview with Jessica Romoff and Izzy McMahon on gender and survivalism, for *Girls Gone Wild* podcast, September 2022.
- Interview with Irma Qavolli, Philadelphia Free Library, for “Hear Me Out: Fake News & Media Literacy,” May 4, 2022.
- Interview for untitled forthcoming documentary project on January 6 insurrection, Casey Kelly and Angela Aguayo, 2021.
- Email interview with Mark Hay, journalist for *Daily Beast*, on Sovereign Citizens and scams, February 2021

- Interview with Dr. Douglas Shaw, Senior Advisor for Special Projects, Nuclear Threat Initiative, on *Desiring the Bomb* and its implications for nuclear policy, April 2020
- Interview with Kevin Smith of The Commons (nonprofit political fact-checking organization) on argument theory and analysis, April 2020
- Interview with Scot McTaggart for *Pitchworks* podcast on the value of argument in education and business (2017)
- Interview for a front-page article in the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* (and other publications), “Learning the art of civil argument in an uncivil time,” December 2016.
- *Pittsburgh Tribune-Review* interview in “Experts offer debate dos, don'ts for Clinton, Trump” <http://triblive.com/news/allegheeny/11149231-74/tump-debate-clinton>
- *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* interview, “Pittsburgh-area students drawn to presidential debates,” March 2016
- Interview on the 2016 Presidential election, WTAE, October 2016
<http://www.wtae.com/article/education-honesty-integrity-key-issues-among-pittsburgh-undecided-voters-1/7482310>